



**YOUR CREW IS WAITING FOR YOU- READY TO JOIN?**

**Vermont Youth Conservation Corps | 1949 East Main St. Richmond, VT 05477 | 802-434-3969 | Info@VYCC.org |**

## **VYCC Food and Farm Program AmeriCorps Crew Member**

### **VYCC Food and Farm Program Overview**

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps' Food and Farm Program is a dynamic youth development, diversified agriculture and food security initiative. We believe in the power that food has to connect us to the land, our community, and each other. We engage young people in organic farming and culinary education on our historic 400-acre campus in Richmond, Vermont where we grow organically certified vegetables and pasture-raised chickens that are distributed to more than 400 families through our nationally recognized Health Care Share project.

The Health Care Share is a public health initiative that connects Vermont families who experience barriers to accessing locally grown produce or have a diet-related disease with a weekly vegetable share they pick up at partnering medical centers.

We also raise laying hens for eggs, pigs for meat, and additional vegetables, flowers, and herbs that we sell through our vibrant, on-site farm stand.

Each year the program provides approximately 65 employment opportunities to youth and young adults from Vermont and around the country who are essential to the daily operations of the farm. In addition to farming, the program has a strong food component which seeks to deepen the connection between the work we do in the field and the food on our plates. These projects are made possible through VYCC's partnership with AmeriCorps (A\*C) and SerVermont.

### **Position Summary**

VYCC is seeking Crew Members who are interested in getting their hands in the dirt by working and learning on an organic vegetable and poultry farm. A successful Crew Member is able to be a part of a supportive and inclusive crew community, navigate and learn from challenges, and strive towards personal and professional growth. Crew Members engage in hands-on work that ranges from bed preparation and planting, to weeding and harvesting. Additional opportunities include gaining culinary skills through the Food Program's Farm Team lunch and participating in on-site chicken processing. AmeriCorps Crew Members are essential to the success of the Health Care Share and the daily operations of the farm. If you are excited to work on and learn from a farming experience, while making communities and individuals more resilient, this service opportunity is for you!

The AmeriCorps Crew Member position is a learning opportunity for current high school students or recent graduates (ages 17+).

### **Essential Functions**

#### *Crew Member Duties*

- Foster teamwork and respect fellow Crew Members
- Follow all principles, practices and policies of VYCC and AmeriCorps
- Contribute to a crew culture that prioritizes physical and emotional safety
- Be part of a team made up of diverse individuals
- Adapt, grow and move outside of comfort zones
- Willingness to work outdoors and in all types of weather

#### *Project Accomplishments*

- Contribute to farm projects including vegetable production (transplanting, weeding, harvesting, and washing crops), packing weekly shares, and caring for VYCC livestock
- Collaborate with Food and Farm Team to prepare Farm Team lunch in a rotating schedule
- Serve alongside other crews, volunteers, and the Farm Team
- Maintain production, quality, and safety standards

#### *Education and Training*

- Participate in AmeriCorps Orientation and scheduled trainings throughout term of service
- Engage in learning and enrichment opportunities across all parts of the Food and Farm Program
- Attend SerVermont events

#### *Communication & Reporting*

- Complete timesheets in a timely manner
- Engage with personal and crew goals through goal setting, reflection and feedback processes
- Maintain regular, effective communication with Crew Leader, Assistant Crew Leader, and crew

### **Required Qualifications**

- Be a U.S. citizen, a national, or legal permanent resident non-citizen of the U.S.
- Be at least 18 years of age or 17 years old with parental permission upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation
- Willingness to undergo a National Service Criminal History check, if 18 years of age or older
- Willingness to undergo Agency of Human Services check, and have not been convicted of murder or sexual assault.
- Commitment to the mission of AmeriCorps and SerVermont

### **Weekly Schedule**

Members serve Monday-Thursday, 8 hours daily. Hours are between 8:00am and 4:30pm.

**About The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC)**

The VYCC is a 501c3 nonprofit that provides valuable work and learning opportunities to youth and young adults from across the country and throughout Vermont. Our model is simple and effective: young people, working together, in the outdoors, on conservation and agriculture projects that have a high impact.

**Excellence and Equal Opportunity at VYCC**

VYCC has a deep commitment to excellence. We believe we are strongest when our team includes members with a broad range of life experiences. We strive to achieve this at all levels of our organization, and actively encourage and recruit, develop, and retain the most talented people from a diverse applicant pool. VYCC is proud to be an equal opportunity employer.

**Work Environment**

Corps Members spend most of their time outdoors, serving with their crew while also interacting with project sponsors, community members, and VYCC staff.

**Prohibited Activities**

In accordance with 45CFR 2520.65, AmeriCorps members may not perform prohibited service activities directly or indirectly while in service. The prohibited activities are outlined in one’s Member Service Agreement.

**Compensation & Benefits**

- AmeriCorps Living Allowance paid biweekly:
  - \$380
- Eligible for Segal Education Award upon completion of service: \$1,342.86
- Access to fresh produce from the farm and daily lunches
- Organizational dedication to on-going professional development
- Potential eligibility for student loan forbearance and interest payment
- Access to pick up and drop off from Richmond Park and Ride

**Terms of Service and Dates of Service:**

300 hour (Minimal-Time) Term from June 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 – August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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**Printed Member Name:**                      **Member Signature:**                      **Date:**

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**Program Director:**                      **Program Director Signature:**                      **Date:**

**Food & Farm Program applicants:**  
Katie Robertson, Program Manager  
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**AmeriCorps**